REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over US Patent Number 5148897 (*Vanroye*) in view of US Patent Number 6640541 (*Winkelmann*) and in further view of US Patent Number 5198285 (*Arai*).

Claim 1 is a shock absorber with numerous limitations including an intermediate silicon carbon layer disposed between the outer peripheral surface of the slide member and the amorphous hard carbon layer. *Vanroye* and *Winkelmann*, alone or in combination with *Arai* do not teach a shock absorber with all the limitations of claim 1. *Vanroye* and *Winkelmann*, alone or in combination with *Arai*, do not teach the shock absorber of claim 1 including a polytetraflourethylene coating on a guide bush and an amorphous hard carbon layer on an outer peripheral surface of the slide member. *Winkelmann* discloses replacing the polytetraflourethylene layer with an amorphous carbon layer, but does not teach or suggest a shock absorber with both a polytetraflourethylene layer and an amorphous hard carbon layer.

Vanroye and *Winkelmann*, alone or in combination with *Arai*, do not teach or suggest a shock absorber with all the limitations of claim 1 including an intermediate silicon carbon layer between the amorphous hard carbon layer and the outer peripheral surface of the slide member. Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner has misread *Arai*. *Arai* does not teach or suggest and intermediate silicon-carbon layer. The intermediate layer in *Arai* is a metal-carbon layer. See, e.g. *Arai* at Col. 7, lines 43 – 50 ("[A] base of iron or iron alloy material, a metal-carbon compound layer formed on the surface of the base, and an amorphous thin film based on carbon formed on the surface of the metal-carbon compound layer"), Col. 8 at lines 3 – 7 (" . . . interlayer of a carbon compound of iron or another metal is incorporated between the base and the surface thin layer of carbon-hydrogen-silicon."), Col. 8, lines 26 – 30 (The metal –carbon compound layer incorporated as an interlayer on the surface of the iron-based metallic material according to the present invention comprises a carbon compound of iron or other metals."), Col. 9, lines 38 – 50 ("[The metal-carbon] coating serves as an interlay avoiding direct contact of the object with the carbon-hydrogen-silcon thin film surface layer . . ."). Thus, *Arai*, alone or in combination with Vanroye and/or Winkelmann does not teach or suggest a shock aborber with all the limitations of claims 1 including an intermediate layer silicon-carbon layer. Thus, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the shock absorber of claim 1 and it is patentable.

Claims 2-20 depend, directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus are patentable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant asserts that all of the objections have been obviated and, therefore now respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections, and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9306, Attn: Examiner Benjamin Pezzlo at: 703-872-9306 on August 25, 2004.

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